GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:583
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2001
STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains stock with the Government are bound to go up from 44.5 million tonnes in November, 2000 to 55.60 million tonnes by the end of June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this is mainly because of the increase in the procurement of both wheat and rice during the current market season;

(c) if so, the total position of foodstocks at present;

(d) whether the Government are not able to store all the grains procured;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete steps the Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d), (e) & (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d), (e) & (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 583 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 27.04.2001.

(a), (b) & (c) : The foodgrain stocks (wheat & rice) in the Central Pool by the end of June 2001 are estimated to be 581.78 lakh tonnes as against 444.86 lakh tonnes in Nov.2000. The increase would be largely on account of open ended procurement and relatively less offtake. The foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool as on 1.4.2001 were 446.95 lakh tonnes. It is not possible to make projections of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool by the end of June 2002, at this stage.

(d) & (e) : Storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies procuring on behalf of the FCI or States having decentralized procurement was 511.10 lakh tonnes as on 31.12.2000. Efforts are being made to augment this capacity.

(f) The Government has taken various measures to liquidate the surplus stocks of foodgrains and to improve the storage facilities. These include, inter alia, enhanced allocation of foodgrains under BPL, supply of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes, open sale of wheat at reduced prices, reduction in Central Issue Prices, export of wheat & rice, construction of new godowns and hiring of godowns for storage of foodgrains. Foodgrains have also been made available to drought affected States, free of cost, for employment generation programmes. The National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced by the Government also seeks to harness the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to create storage capacity on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.